

PERFORMANCEPLUS

and

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is PerformancePLUS?

PerformancePLUS is one component of a suite of products known collectively as Performance Plus or P+. Specifically, PerformancePLUS is a tool for monitoring student achievement through the analysis of national, state and local assessment results, such as the NECAP or NWEA, or CTE competencies (see next question). Student information dating back to 2005-2006 can be accessed through the PerformancePLUS module, allowing instructors and administrators to review their students' progress over time and discern potential areas for improvement or acclaim. PerformancePLUS can also generate reports that instructors can use to evaluate and improve their programs, classes and/or curriculum.

The two other components of Performance Plus are Assessment Builder and Tech Paths, but these are not relevant to Career and Technical Education at this time.

What is the relationship between PerformancePLUS and Career and Technical Education?

PerformancePLUS has been loaded with the program competencies for NH's active CTE programs. Instructors can score these competencies for their students online, without needing to rely on paper and pencil methods of recordkeeping. By scoring CTE competencies in PerformancePLUS, instructors and administrators will have access to real-time reporting features to identify strengths and weaknesses in a class' competency proficiency.

Course and student data is fed into PerformancePLUS directly from the CATE online database, and is refreshed nightly to be continually up to date.

We have compiled competency scores for the last three years; does PerformancePLUS replace methods used in previous years?

Yes, PerformancePLUS replaces the paper/pencil (in most cases) method of reporting competencies. PerformancePLUS is 100% electronic. For 2009-2010, CTE Centers are required to submit competency data and are strongly encouraged to use PerformancePLUS to do so. Starting in 2010-2011, use of PerformancePLUS to report competency data will be required by all centers.

Career and Technical Education are generally two year programs. Can we carry over students into the second year?

Students will be able to be carried over into the next year (or in some cases next semester) of a program. The mechanism for doing this is still in the works.

Who will see the scores?

The scores are visible to your administration and to project managers at the Department of Education's Career Development Bureau.

How will the information be used?

Career and Technical Education courses are competency-based and the scores on the competencies can tell an important story to administration about student progress. Competency scores can also be used to assess the need for improvements in course-related areas such as curriculum development.

There is an understanding that competency scores are related to the distribution of Perkins funding. Is that true?

Absolutely not. Perkins funding has nothing to do with competency scores. Perkins funding will continue to be distributed based on the statutory formula used in the past.

What happens if I have a classroom of students that score low in most of the competencies?

PerformancePLUS will provide instructors with valuable information for targeting improvements where improvements are needed most. If a subgroup of students is performing poorly, you will be able to identify who those students are and devise strategies/improvements that focus on skills development needed by this subgroup of your students.

Your liaison will consult the end-of-year scores to get a sense of what is happening in the classroom. If, for instance, there is a program that produces high scores and low scores, it is possible to drill down and identify where improvements are needed most. Another example would be if scores are average but seem to be low in one particular area; this may indicate lack of resources with the curriculum, that equipment is not available, or that the material has not yet been covered. This information will present each Center with the opportunity not only to work with the Department to target improvements, but also to work with other centers throughout the state to share effective strategies for teaching CTE competencies in similar settings.

Are we required to compile scores in PerformancePLUS? If so, how often?

Competency data *is required* as part of the End-of-Year reporting for School Year 2009-2010, but it is not mandatory that PerformancePLUS be used to report that data. However, ***beginning with School Year 2010-2011, all CTE Centers will be required to submit competency scoring data through PerformancePLUS.***

How do I score a special education student who is working with a modified competency framework? Can I just leave spaces blank?

Discussions are ongoing in regards to the fair and equitable treatment of special education students who are responsible for completing a modified version of their program's competencies. As it currently stands, leaving scoring fields blank will still count against the student's overall proficiency rating, which in turn will affect the proficiency rating for the class as a whole. A resolution of this issue is a priority for CTE as we move forward with PerformancePLUS.

How do I access PerformancePLUS?

PerformancePLUS is accessible through the myNHDOE single sign-on (SSO) portal (<https://my.doe.nh.gov/myNHDOE/Login/Login.aspx>). If you already have a myNHDOE account but do not have access to PerformancePLUS, contact your SAU's i4see contact or Web Security Administrator and request access to PerformancePLUS. A list of i4see contacts can be found here: <http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/datacollection/i4see/i4seeContacts.asp>.

If you do not have a myNHDOE account, you will need to create one before requesting access to PerformancePLUS. To create an account, visit <https://my.doe.nh.gov/myNHDOE/Login/Login.aspx>, and click on the button labeled "Create New User Account." Follow the steps to create your account. Once it has been created, you will need to contact your SAU's i4see contact or Web Security Administrator to request access to PerformancePLUS.

Who should have access PerformancePLUS?

In addition to administrators, instructors will also need access to PerformancePLUS for entering competency scores, accessing student records, and potentially running reports. Other staff may also be given access if deemed necessary by administrators. **Please note that student scoring should only be done by the instructor.**

Are there different security levels for PerformancePLUS?

Yes. There are several different security levels (also known as security roles) for accessing PerformancePLUS. A sample list of security roles can be found at the Department of Education's website:

<http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/datacollection/i4see/myNHDOEPerformancePLUSSecurityRoles.htm>

Keep in mind that security roles may change and new roles may be added as needs emerge. Check with your i4see contact for a complete list of current security roles.

If I have a question about PerformancePLUS, who should I contact?

Currently, CTE centers should contact Melissa Ritchings (Melissa.Ritchings@ed.state.nh.us, PH: 603-271-5198) with any questions or to report problems relating to PerformancePLUS.